

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A heat-developable image recording material comprising:

a support;

a photosensitive silver halide;

a reducing agent for a silver ion;

a binder; and

a non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain,

wherein the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain has:

- 1) a silver stearate content of 1 mol% or less;
- 2) a length/width ratio of 1 to 9;
- 3) an aspect ratio of 1.1 to 30; and
- 4) an equivalent-sphere diameter of 0.05 to 1 μm .

2. The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain has a silver arachidate content of 6 mol% or less.

3. The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain has a silver behenate content of 90 to 100 mol%.

4. The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain has a silver behenate content of 95 to 100 mol%.

5. The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain has a silver behenate content of 97 to 100 mol%.

6. The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain is prepared at 60°C or less.

7. The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain is prepared by adding an aqueous silver nitrate solution and a solution or suspension of an organic acid alkali metal salt to a closed mixing vessel.

8. The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain is desalted by an ultrafiltration.

9. The heat-developable image recording material as

claimed in claim 1, which further comprises an image-forming layer containing the photosensitive silver halide and the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain.

10. The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 9, wherein the image-forming layer further contains the reducing agent for a silver ion and the binder.

11. The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 9, which further comprises a second image-forming layer containing the reducing agent for a silver ion and the binder.